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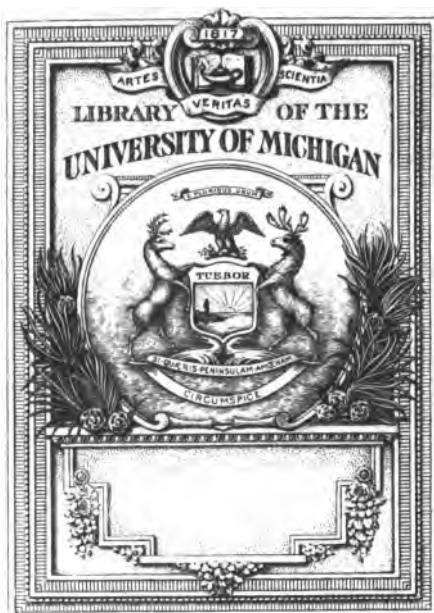
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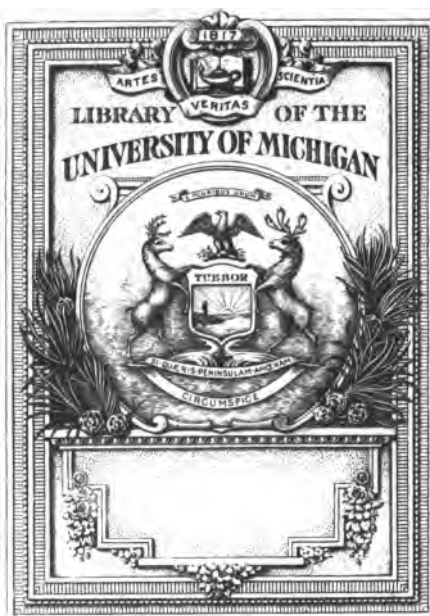


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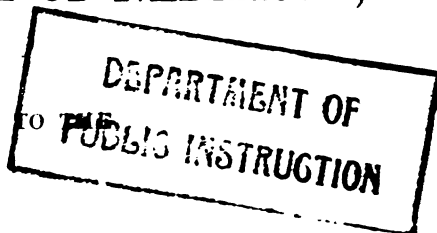
OF THE

Nebraska (Terr.) Office of

COMMISSIONER OF COMMON SCHOOLS

OF THE

TERRITORY OF NEBRASKA,



Sixth Legislative Assembly.

SESSION 1859-60.

1000 Copies ordered to be Printed.

100

JUN 14 '55

REPORT.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF COMMON SCHOOLS, }
Omaha City, N. T., Jan. 3d, 1860. }

TO THE HONORABLE, THE COUNCIL AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
NEBRASKA :

In accordance with the requirements of Section 52 of "An Act providing for the better regulation of Schools in Nebraska," approved Nov. 4th, 1858, I have the honor to submit the Annual Report of the School Department:

On assuming the duties of my office, I addressed a circular to the Clerk of each organized County in the Territory, calling for an early report upon the condition of Schools in their respective counties. Nearly all have responded to the call, and the accompanying documents are the result.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the organization of our Common School System, from the indefiniteness of the word "Township" in the law; and as there are no civil or municipal Townships in the Territory, and no law for their organization, but little could be done outside of the incorporated Cities and Towns; consequently, a full enumeration of Scholars has not been taken in the Rural Districts. As it would manifestly be unjust to distribute the School Monies collected during the past year—as provided for in Sec. 34 of the law—upon the partial enumeration returned to this office, the time for making the full returns should be extended.

The amendments which have recently passed the Council, should they become a law, will remedy the above, and other defects in, and objections to the law, as it now stands.

The amount of taxes due the Territorial School Fund for 1859, on the assessment rolls returned to the Territorial Auditor, as provided for in Sec. 60, is fifteen thousand two hundred and sixteen dollars and sixty cents, (\$15,216,60,) and is made up as follows:

Burt	County.....	\$ 280 54
Cass	"	2,192 15
Cedar	"	37 41
Dakota	"	216 49
Dixon	"	64 93
Dodge	"	318 89
Douglas	"	6,318 10
Johnson	"	135 90
Nemaha	"	987 68
Otoe	"	2,375 85
Platte	"	47 89
Richardson	"	408 79
Sarpy	"	1,069 60
Washingt'n	"	762 38
Total.....		\$15,216 60

I am informed that there are other Counties from which a School tax is due, though I am not informed as to the amount.

There should be due, in the several Counties, for poll-tax, license fees, ferry charter fees, fines, &c., an aggregate of near, if not above, \$10,000, or say a grand total of twenty-five thousand dollars, (\$25,000) to be applied to Educational purposes, exclusive of local taxes for building and furnishing School Houses, supplying deficiencies, &c. No Library tax has been collected, as far as I can learn, in any of the Counties.

The report of Wm. R. Craig, former Superintendent of Common Schools in Otoe County, shows that he paid—though he does not state the amount—a sum for Attorney's fees, in contesting fraudulent entries of School Lands, and has agreed to pay a contingent fee of \$300 more in another case. I am unable to find any authority of law for such a disbursement of School funds. There should be some one authorized to settle the accounts of County Superintendents under the old law.

Several instances have been brought to my notice, of the fraudulent entry of very valuable School lands, which might be reclaimed to the School fund, if there were any way provided for the payments of the necessary expenses of suits brought for their recovery. In other in-

stances, School Sections have been stripped of valuable groves of timber, which might have been prevented, had there been any person authorized to look to the matter, and disburse money for the protection of School lands. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that a memorial be presented to Congress, asking the present use of the School lands, on condition that the Territory protect them from depredation. Could we get control of the School lands, for the purpose of renting them, I doubt not that a very handsome revenue might be derived therefrom.

I have opened a correspondence with several of the State Superintendents of Public Instruction, with a view of acquiring for our Territory the benefit of their longer experience in the cause of Popular Education.

I have received, from several publishers of School Books, copies of their publications, and have been offered more by others. As soon as I can obtain the different series of Common School Books, I shall call together a committee of Teachers and submit them to their examination, with a view to recommending a uniformity of Text-Books in the Territory, as it is highly desirable that the best Series should be adopted in the commencement of our Common School System.

I have had the pleasure of visiting several of the Public Schools in the City of Omaha, and found them in a prosperous condition.

The reports from Nemaha, Cass, Douglas, Washington, Otoe, Dixon and other Counties are very creditable and encouraging, taking into consideration that this is the first year of the law, and the seeming difficulties in organizing under it. All of the Counties seem determined that before another year is out a much more prosperous condition of Schools shall be shown, provided the Legislature will aid them, by enacting such amendments as will enable them to fully organize their School Districts.

It is to Immigration that we look for the means of developing the resources and prosperity of our Territory; and that we can only secure by showing the Immigrant that we pay some regard to the welfare and happiness of our people. Almost the first questions asked by the better class of Immigrants, are in regard to the Schools; for but very few would be willing to surrender the advantages of an education for their children, for the other advantages to be found here, considering that paramount to all others; and that upon good Schools, more than anything else, depends the welfare, happiness, and prosperity of the Country.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM E. HARVEY, 
Commissioner of Common Schools for Nebraska.

Abstract of County Reports.

NAMES OF COUNTIES.	No. children between the ages of 5 and 21 years, residing in the counties.		No. of children who have attended school during the past year.		Number of Teachers.....		No. of Schools.....	No. of School-houses.....	Days School has kept....	Average attendance.....	No. Vols. in Library,	Value of apparatus.....	No. of Select Schools.....	Value of School-houses.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's								
*Burt	558	521	175	200	7	8	6	8	192				8	*
†Cass.....													2	
††Cedar.....														
‡Cuming.....														
Dixon.....	32	34	19	21	2	1	3		40					
Dodge.....	90	75	15	25	2	2	2		84					
Douglas.....	448	568	134	153	2	4	4	5	182					
Gage.....														
Johnson.....														
*Leau qui Court														
Monroe.....	9	8												
Nemaha.....	297	266	205	204	7	2	6		487					1300
Otoe.....	661	626	31	35	2	2	2	1	140	45				
Platte.....														
Richardson.....	37	38												
††Sarpy.....	84	75			1	1	2							600
**Washington...	183	157	49	44	1	2	4	1	213					
Total.....	2399	2368	628	682	20	22	29	15	277				10	1900

*No action taken in County.

†One organized District in County.

††But two schools, and those private.

‡One school to be formed within a year.

† No tax raised, and nothing done in regard to schools.

† One Township organized. Schools so far have been supported by subscription.

† No return received by Clerk. Only private schools, as yet, in County.

**No full returns.

**Precincts regarded as Townships.

County Reports.

BURT COUNTY.

“No action whatever has been taken in this County in relation to the Act for the better regulation of Schools in Nebraska.”

J. R. CONKLIN,
County Clerk-Burt County.

CASS COUNTY.

NAME OF DISTRICT	No. of youth between 5 and 21 years of age residing in the several districts of the County.		Number of youth that have attended School during the past year.....		Number of Teachers.....		Number of Schools.....	Number of School Houses.....	Days School has kept.....	Average attendance.....	No. of Volumes in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	Number of Select Schools.....	Text Books used.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's								
Plattsmouth.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	No	...	No	No	...	...
District No. 1....	558	521	175	200	7	8	6	8	Rep.	192	Rep.	Rep.	8	...

"The above is correct, as reported to me, and as the returns in my office show. There is but one regular organized District in the County; and the rest of the County is attached to it for School purposes."

"Witness my hand and seal of office, this 20th day of
[L. S.] Dec., A. D. 1859.

D. H. WHEELER,
County Clerk Cass County.

CEDAR COUNTY.

There has been only two Schools kept, as yet, in the County, and those were Private Schools.

WM. N. COLLAMER,
County Clerk Cedar County.

CUMING COUNTY.

As yet there are no Schools in this County. The inhabitants are so much scattered that it is hard to make up a School; but there will be one at this place (West Point) within one year.

J. C. CRAWFORD,
County Clerk Cuming County.

DIXON COUNTY.

NAMES OF TOWNSHIP DISTRICT	No. children between the ages of 5 and 21 yrs. residing in the several districts in the Co.....		Number of children who have attended school during the past year		Number of Teachers.....		Number of Schools	Number of school houses.....	Days school has kept.....	Average attendance	Volumes in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	Select Schools.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's							
Ponca District No. 1. Town 30 N., R. 6 East. }	11	13	7	8	1		1	.....	Sum	15	.....	.....	.....
Dixon District No. 2. Town 32 N., R. 4 E. }	21	22	12	13	2		2	.....	Win	25	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	32	34	19	21	2	1	3			40			

I hereby certify that the foregoing statement is true and correct, and contains all the information that is on file in my office. I am aware of there being a private school at Ponca this summer, but the Directors have not returned any statement to my office about the school or number in attendance, &c., &c. Also, that, there were two schools in Dixon precinct; but there is no information about their attendance or schools in my office.

[L. S.]

Witness my hand this 24th day of November,
A. D., 1859.

EDWARD SERRY,
County Clerk Dixon Connty.

DODGE COUNTY.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	No. children between 5 & 21 yrs. of age resid- ing in the several dis- tricts of the County...		No. children who have attended School during the past year.....		Number of Teachers...		Number of Schools.....	Number school houses.....	Days school has kept.....	Average attendance.....	Volumes in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	No. of Select Schools.....	Text-books used.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's								
Fontanelle.....	49	40	15	25	...	1	1	...	84	...	...	...	...	...
Fremont.....	22	18	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Albion.....	11	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Bend.....	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	90	75	15	25	...	...	2	...	8+	...	...	...	...	...

*Same as recommended by Territorial Commissioner.

The Fontanelle District has annexed to it for School purposes, all the Territory embraced within the limits of Township No. 18 North, in Ranges 8 and 9 East of the 6th Principal Meridian.

JOHN RAY,
County Clerk Dodge County.

JOHNSON COUNTY.

We have as yet had no Schools under the School Law, consequently I can make no report. We have one Township organized for School purposes; but our Schools, so far, have all been supported by subscription.

JOSEPH SAUNDERS,
County Clerk Johnson County.

L'EAU QUI COURT COUNTY.

No returns have been received from any Township in this County. As yet none but private Schools have been established in this County. We hope to organize a Board of Education next Spring.

R. W. HAGAMAN,
County Clerk L'ean qui Court County

DOUGLAS COUNTY.

NAME OF TOWNSHIP DISTRICT.	No. children between 5 & 21 yrs. of age resid- ing in the several dis- tricts of the County...		No. children who have attended school during the past year		Number of Teachers...		Number of Schools.....	Number school houses.....	Days school has kept.....	Average attendance.....	Volumes in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	No. of Select Schools.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's							
No. 1, Omaha.....	250	275	125	142	1	3	4	3	30	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 2, Walker's.....	19	17	7	9	...	...	.....	.....	132	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 3, Brewster's.....	16	12	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 4, Saratoga.....	18	11	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 5, Florence	123	135	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 6, Griffin's	8	5	.....	.....	...	...	.....	1	20	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 7, Chicago.....	14	13	2	2	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	448	568	134	153	2	4	4	4	182	.....	.....	.....	.....

TEXT-BOOKS USED: Sander's Readers and Spellers, Smith's Grammar, Parker's Philosophy, Cutter's Physiology, Porter's Chemistry, Arnold and Bullion's Greek Grammar, Davies' Mathematics, Willard's Histories, Monteith & McNally's Geographies, Fulton & Eastman's Book-keeping and Penmanship, Bullion's Latin Grammar.

There is one School House under Contract in Chicago District.

JAS. W. VAN NOSTRAND,
County Clerk Douglas County.

GAGE COUNTY.

Nothing has been done in this County in regard to Schools, that has ever come to my knowledge. We have never been able to raise any tax, and the County is so sparsely settled that it is impossible, at this early day, to support a School in our County. We hope, however, next year, to be able to make a more favorable report of the condition of Common Schools in Gage County.

NATHAN BLAKELY,
County Clerk Gage County.

MONROE COUNTY.

NUMBER OF DISTRICT	No. of Select Schools.....		Value of Apparatus.....		Volumes in Library.....		Average attendance.....		Days school has kept.....		Number school houses.....		Number of Schools.....		Number of Teachers...		No. children who have attended School during the past year.....		No. children between 5 & 21 years of age residing in the several districts of the County...	
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's
Cleveland, No 1.....	9	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

I do hereby certify, That the above is a true and correct copy of the returns required to be made by me, by the 37th section of "An act entitled an act for the better regulation of Schools in Nebraska," approved November 4th, 1858.

[L. s.]

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Witness my hand and the official seal of the County of Monroe, Nebraska Territory, hereunto affixed at Monroe, this 16th day of December, A. D. 1859.

EDWARD A. GERRARD,
County Clerk of Monroe County.

SARPY COUNTY.

In pursuance of law, I herewith transmit the following report of the condition of Schools in this County :

School District No. 1, embracing Township No. thirteen (13), Range 12, have only returned a list of the Scholars between the ages of 5 and 21 years, certified to by the Township Clerk.

Township 12, Range 11, is in the same condition.

District No. 6, embracing the city of Bellevue, with the territory annexed thereto for School purposes, held a School meeting on the 1st Monday of March, and elected local Directors, who were duly qualified according to law. There has been no report made by the Teachers in this School District. An enumeration of the Scholars between the ages of 5 and 21 was returned, certified by one of the Board of Directors.

There is another District with School house, where a School has been in operation during last summer and fall. They have made no report.

The following is the number of Schools in the several School Districts, as returned to me :

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of Youth between the ages of 5 and 21 years residing in the county		Number of children who have attended school during the past year		Number of Teachers		Number of Schools	Number of school houses	Days school has kept	Days school has kept	Average attendance	Value of apparatus	Value of school houses
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's							
T. 13 R. 12	20	11	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
T. 12 R. 11	29	31	.....	.....	1	...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
City of Bellevue	35	33	.....	.....	1	...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$600
Total	84	75	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$600

The other requirements of the law have not been complied with, partly owing to the complicated state of the law ; and also, the insufficiency of funds to meet said requirements.

STEPHEN D. BANGS,
County Clerk.

RICHARDSON COUNTY.

But one district is as yet organized in this County, being Town District No. 1. The number of children residing therein between the ages of five and twenty-one years, is as follows: Males, 87; Females, 38.

A. J. DESHAZO,
County Clerk Richardson County.

NEMAHIA COUNTY.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	No. children between the ages of 5 and 21 years, residing in the several districts of the County...		No. of children who have attended school during the past year.....		Number of Teachers.....		Number of Schools.....	No. of School-Houses.....	Days School has kept. ...	Average attendance.....	No. of Vols. in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	Value of School-houses.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's							
Township No. 5., N. Range 15 East.													
Sub. Dist. No. 1. ...	29	33	6	12		1	1	60					
" " " 2. ...	13	10	9	12		1	1	60					
" " " 3. ...	12	15	10	11	1		1	50					
Township No. 6., N. Range 14 East.													
Sub. Dist. No. 1. ...	26	27	4	9	1			75					
" " " 2. ...	16	9											
" " " 3. ...	9	6											
District No. 3. Nemaha City.....	48	40	32	34	1		1	86					\$500
Brownville School District.....	100	87	100	87	4		2	156					\$800
District No. 6. Peru.....	44	39	44	39									
Total in county...	297	266	205	204	7	2	6	487					1300

TEXT-BOOKS USED: McGuffie's Readers, Webster's Speller, Ray's Arithmetic, McGuffie's Primer, McGuffie's Speller, Mitchell's Geography.

The above is a true copy of the returns made to this office, all of which is respectfully submitted; and I hereby certify to their correctness. In testimony whereof, &c., &c.,

T. W. BEDFORD,
County Clerk Nemaha County.

OTOE COUNTY.

NUMBER OF DISTRICT	No. children between the ages of 5 and 21 years, residing in the several districts in the County...		No. of children who have attended school during the past year		Number of Teachers.....		Number of Schools.....	Number of school houses..	Days school has kept.....	Average attendance	Volumes in Library.....	Value of Apparatus.....	Number Select Schools.....
	M's	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's							
District No. 1.....	246	263	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 2.....	48	54	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 3.....	61	41	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 4.....	53	55	15	18	...	1	1	1	60	20	.....	.....	.....
" " 5.....	45	60	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 6.....	30	22	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 7.....	40	36	16	17	...	1	1	.....	80	25	.....	.....	.....
" " 8.....	24	28	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 9.....	41	26	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 10.....	30	17	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" " 11.....	45	24	.....	.....	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	661	626	31	35	...	2	2	1	140	45	.....	.....	.....

I, Henry R. Newcomb, County Clerk of Otoe County, Nebraska Territory, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct abstract of the enumeration of children, and of School statistics, as returned to me from the above designated town districts in Otoe County, Nebraska Territory, for the year A. D. 1859.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Court of said County, this 16th day of December, A. D. 1859.

(Signed) HENRY R. NEWCOMB,
County Clerk Otoe County.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

NAMES AND NUMBER OF TOWNSHIP.	Number of children between the ages of 5 and 21 years residing in the School Districts		Number of children who have attended school during the past year		Number of Teachers		Number of School houses	Days School has kept	Average attendance	No. Volumes in Library	Value of Apparatus	Value of school-houses
	M.	F's	M's	F's	M's	F's						
Cuming City Precinct												
District No. 1.	25	30					1					
De Soto Precinct.												
District No. 1.	54	43	26	17	1		1	73				
Ft. Calhoun Precinct												
District No. 5.	12	10										
" " 6.	44	39	23	27		2	2	1	140			
" " 7.	1	1										
" " 8.	17	13										
Richland Precinct.	30	21										
Rockport Precinct.												
Total	183	157	49	1	1	2	4	1	213			

I may add, by way of explanation, that the foregoing statement is made presuming that "Township," as expressed in the law, must be construed to mean "Precinct" in its application, as we have in other civil Township boundaries here. Great delay and difficulty has resulted in this County, in procuring reports from the local officers, owing to a misapprehension with some as to what constitutes a "Township," many believing that Township, as referred to by the law, had reference to congressional Township boundaries.

ELAM CLARK,
County Clerk Washington County.

Report

Of Wm. R. Craig, former Superintendent of Common Schools in Otoc County.

NEBRASKA CITY, }
November 1st, 1859.

J. H. KELLUM, Esq., Sup't Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR:—I herewith submit a statement of the condition of the School Fund of this County, and the progress that has been made in establishing Schools in this County. The settled portion of the County

was districted by me, and elections held for the officers necessary, but few of them performed the duties for which they were elected. Six of the Districts built School houses. Some of them are quite creditable for a new country. The School fund for 1857 was so small (\$150) that it was but little inducement to exertion to secure it. The School Tax for 1858 was greater. Some fines would have found their way into the School Fund, if, in the passage of the license law, the Legislature had not left off a saving clause, for the law repealed, by which oversight, the Schools of this County lost about one thousand dollars.

I submit a statement of the moneys received and payed out by me :

Received of the Treasurer in 1857	.....	\$ 98 00
“ “ J. B. Boulware	.....	30 00
“ “ Treasurer in 1858	.....	158 50
“ “ J. B. Boulware	.....	30 00
“ “ Treasurer, Feb., 1859	.....	225 00

Total.....\$586 50

I have paid up to this date, to District Treasurers, and for Attorneys' fees in contested cases of entries of School lands, \$494,50, leaving a balance in my hands of forty-two dollars (42,00.)

I have agreed to pay a contingent fee of \$300.00 to Young and Niles, of Washington City, on their getting cancelled the entry of L. Kelley, of the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 16, which is very valuable from its proximity to this City.

The resources for Schools for 1860, this year, are as follows :

Amount in Treasurers hands, and delinquent taxes for

1858	\$ 683 00
Tax list for 1859, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills	2,500 00
Fine of George Boulware paid to Treasurer	50 00

Total.....\$3,183 00

There is in the hands, or has been collected by the City for liquor license, about \$2,000,00, which the city authorities refuse to surrender. Suit has been brought against them for the amount, which, if received, will swell the total to over \$5,000. There is in addition, due from Boulware on his ferry charter, \$30,00; besides some fines that will probably be made.

WM. R. CRAIG,
Sup't Common Schools for Otoe County.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



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